

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



Nevada State Veterans Home – Boulder City
100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 332-6864 • Fax (702) 332-6762

Office of Veterans Services
950 W. Owens, Rm. 111
Las Vegas, Nevada
(702) 636-3070 • Fax (702) 486-5268

Northern Nevada Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
P.O. Box 1919
Fernley, Nevada 89408
(775) 575-4441 • Fax (775) 575-5713

STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
1201 Terminal Way No. 215
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 688-1653 • Fax (775) 688-1656

Southern Nevada Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
1900 Buchanan Boulevard
Boulder City, Nevada 89005
(702) 486-5920 • Fax (702) 486-5923

Report of a New Scam Geared Towards Veterans.

The Philadelphia Network Support Staff is seeing increasing reports of users receiving email from the address abuse@vba.va.gov, asking them to check an account by clicking on a link.

This email is a phishing scam, an attempt to gain personal information. The email address abuse@vba.va.gov is fake and the link in the email is to a web site in Asia.

Please notify all users of this phishing scam and instruct them to delete this email if they receive it. **DO NOT OPEN** the email.

On behalf of the NOVS, please be cautious,

How to Recognize a Phishing Attack and Avoid Being Hooked

Written by: Nance Olsen Kelly



Nance Olsen Kelly is a licensed attorney who has an active and ongoing interest in credit and debt related issues, both from a legal standpoint and a consumer standpoint. Since 2003 Nance has navigated the state and federal laws relating to credit reporting and debt collection, and has handled consumer complaints and lawsuits relating to these areas of the law. Nance's knowledge of the laws, and the practical application of those laws to everyday situations assists her in educating consumers about a complicated topic in an easy to understand manner.

Phishing is a growing problem for consumers as fraudsters get more and more sophisticated. Phishing is usually done via an e-mail which appears to be from a trusted source - your bank, Pay-Pal, eBay, etc. - and which attempts to induce you to provide your personal information, bank account number or credit card number. Many of these e-mails look legitimate, and the unwary consumer clicks on the link and becomes a victim.

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



Nevada State Veterans Home – Boulder City
100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 332-6864 • Fax (702) 332-6762

Office of Veterans Services
950 W. Owens, Rm. 111
Las Vegas, Nevada
(702) 636-3070 • Fax (702) 486-5268

Northern Nevada Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
P.O. Box 1919
Fernley, Nevada 89408
(775) 575-4441 • Fax (775) 575-5713

STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
1201 Terminal Way No. 215
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 688-1653 • Fax (775) 688-1656

Southern Nevada Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
1900 Buchanan Boulevard
Boulder City, Nevada 89005
(702) 486-5920 • Fax (702) 486-5923

Phishing Examples

- **Pay-Pal** - These phishing excursions indicate that there have been attempts to access the recipient's Pay-Pal account from a foreign IP, and that they must verify their identity by clicking on the link provided in the e-mail in order to have their account remain active. Early versions of this phishing attempt had numerous misspellings in the e-mail, but those seem to have been fixed in more recent attempts.
- **Chase Bank** - This phishing excursion also indicates that the recipient's account has been breached, and requests that they click on a link that appears to go to Chase's secure site to verify their account details within 72 hours to avoid having their account closed.
- **eBay** - There are a number of eBay scams floating around out there in cyberspace.

The most common ones request that you, of course, click on the link to verify your account. I've recently been getting some which purport to come from a potential buyer asking that I respond to a question. The e-mails look good, but they're being sent to an e-mail account which isn't linked to my eBay account, and I don't currently have any auctions running.

There are hundreds of phishing scams hoping to catch the unwary at any given time. The Anti-Phishing Working Group has an archive of phishing attacks that have been submitted to them.

How to Avoid Getting Hooked

The simplest way to avoid becoming the victim of a phishing attack is to never click on a link from an unsolicited e-mail. If you are ever asked to verify your account information for any reason, go to the website of the bank or company, and access your account directly via their secure website. Some other ways to avoid becoming a victim are:

- Hold your cursor over the link. A text message will show the URL of the website you will be directed to. If it is not the website of the company sending the e-mail, or it doesn't start with "https" you can be pretty sure you've been phished.
- Never reply to a phishing e-mail; this can give the potential thieves information about you.
- Keep your virus and firewall software up-to-date; some phishing attacks carry harmful viruses or trojans that can collect personal information from your computer.
- Never open attachments that end in .exe or aren't from a trusted source.

How to Report Phishing

If you've been phished, forward the entire e-mail to **spam@uce.gov** and to the to the company, bank, or organization impersonated in the phishing email. Most organizations have information on their websites about where to report problems.

KENNY C. GUINN
Governor



Nevada State Veterans Home – Boulder City
100 Veterans Memorial Drive
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 332-6864 • Fax (702) 332-6762

Office of Veterans Services
950 W. Owens, Rm. 111
Las Vegas, Nevada
(702) 636-3070 • Fax (702) 486-5268

Northern Nevada Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
P.O. Box 1919
Fernley, Nevada 89408
(775) 575-4441 • Fax (775) 575-5713

STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES
1201 Terminal Way No. 215
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 688-1653 • Fax (775) 688-1656

Southern Nevada Veterans
Memorial Cemetery
1900 Buchanan Boulevard
Boulder City, Nevada 89005
(702) 486-5920 • Fax (702) 486-5923

This original article can be viewed and enjoyed by visiting this site: <http://credit.about.com/od/phishing/a/phishing.htm>

Nance Kelly
About Credit/Debt Management
<http://credit.about.com>

www.about.com

About.com is part of The New York Times Company

Prior written consent to publish this article was requested and granted from the original author. This article was agreed upon to be used for transmission through the Nevada Office of Veterans Services website. A copy of this consent is on file and is available upon request. The NOVS IT Department, including anyone associated with the Nevada Office of Veterans Services is **not** the original author of the document entitled: [How to Recognize a Phishing Attack and Avoid Being Hooked.](#) This article was written by **Nance Olsen Kelly**.